

RESEARCH

State forest properties provide an excellent setting for many types of research. This can include research on management activities, social values, and basic forest ecosystems. In the past research has ranged from informal, observational studies conducted by property personnel to internationally backed research by university researchers. Properties are encouraged to continue to provide sites, and resources if available, to support research. The following guidelines are designed to provide a consistent opportunity for research, and gain the benefits of research.

Division Research

Occasionally state forest personnel identify a need or desire to conduct some type of research. In the past this research was often done informally without helpful outside analysis or input. This often resulted in few findings with limited value.

All future research by property personnel must be proposed in writing with a clear objective and action plan. This is sent to the Section Staff for review. The proposal will include a clear methodology for the sampling layout and analysis of data. Properties are encouraged to consult research professionals within or outside the Division for help in designing research. After review, the Section Staff will forward the proposal to the State Forester for approval to proceed.

The Division may occasionally fund outside researchers to perform desired research. This research will also be approved by the State Forester.

All research should receive necessary permits and/or approvals prior to commencement. Research that involves construction in a floodway will comply with the Flood Control Act. Soil-disturbing research will receive archaeological clearance where appropriate. Research that involves the removal or taking of animals, vegetation, rocks or other materials must receive appropriate approval, possibly from other agencies.

External Research

State forest properties are regularly used as research sites by external researchers. Properties that are approached for research must receive a written proposal by the researcher stating the objective of the research and the methods to be used. The proposal will include begin and end dates, and names of those involved. A research site request form must be completed. The property forwards the research request to the Section Staff for review with a property recommendation to approve or deny. The request then goes to the State Forester for approval consideration.

All external research proposals will include a provision that the Division of Forestry will

receive a copy of all data, data analysis, results, conclusions, and any paper or publication containing the research.

Approval of the Section Staff and State Forester is the minimum for any research, and is sufficient for most passive, observational research. Some research may require additional permits or approvals from other Divisions. In particular, ground disturbing activities may require archaeological clearance. The disturbance or capture of animals may require permission from the Division of Fish and Wildlife. The removal or disturbance of some plants or plant parts may require permission from the Division of Nature Preserves. These collection situations will usually require a scientific collector's permit. The Section Staff should be contacted for further information.

Section Bullet Summary

- Research conducted by properties will have an identifiable goal and methodology.
- External research will be submitted in writing, and will be reviewed by the Property Program Director.
- Where appropriate, all research will receive approvals and permits.